

SPORTS



**LOCAL HERO:** Duxbury native Max Quinzani talks shop with a couple of his fans as he waits to take the field for the second half of the Boston Cannons' game against the Toronto Nationals.

# Good to be home

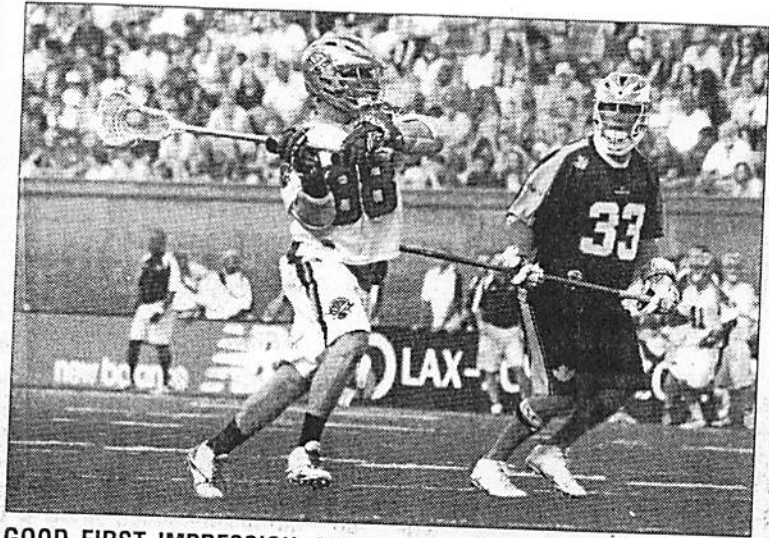
## Former DHS star Max Quinzani playing Major League Lacrosse

By DAVE PALANA, CLIPPER STAFF

Kevin Rubin has been taking his young sons to Boston Cannons games for the better part of the team's 10-year existence. The Rubins have followed the team from their humble start at Boston University's Nickerson

field in the fledgling days of Major League Lacrosse to their current home further down Storow Drive at Harvard Stadium, where the Cannons attendance now eclipses 7,000 and is growing every game.

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**GOOD FIRST IMPRESSION:** Max Quinzani fires a pass to a Boston Cannons teammate on Saturday night against the Toronto Nationals. The former Duxbury high school star has been on fire since the Cannons drafted him with the third overall pick in this year's Major League Lacrosse draft.

# Quinzani plays local lacrosse

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Clad in some dark green hats emblazoned with the Duxbury Dragons logo, Rubin and his sons Tyler, Eric and Matt took in the Cannons' 17-10 win over the Toronto Nationals Saturday night, a game in which Matt Poskay broke the Cannons' all-time scoring record and the team clinched a playoff spot. The Cannons may want to think about adopting that color scheme with four former Dragons now on the roster and one of them, rookie sensation Max Quinzani, taking MLL by storm.

"We remember him playing at Duxbury High School," Kevin Rubin said. "It is really nice to watch someone from our hometown."

Quinzani joined the professional ranks after captaining Duke University to the 2010 NCAA national championship. The Cannons selected him with the third pick in the MLL draft on June 6, and he has not disappointed. He has seven goals in his first four games, three of which came against the Denver Outlaws on June 14 and earned him Rookie of the Week honors.



**NO FEAR:** Max Quinzani battles for position against 6-foot Toronto defender Jake Deane. At 5'8", Quinzani is frequently matched up against bigger defenders, but it hasn't stopped the Duxbury native from scoring seven goals in his first four professional games.

"It's been great," Quinzani said of his first few weeks as a professional. "I've gotten to know the guys a lot more and that obviously lubricates things. It was Pos' day today, getting to know him of the past couple of weeks, I'm happy as hell for him. It's good to be on the team; it's good to be on A team."

Quinzani is easily recognizable on the field due to the fact that, generously listed at five feet eight inches tall, he is the smallest player on the field. Nearly a head shorter than Toronto defender Steven Parnelli, who was marking him for most of the game, and dwarfed by the 6'4" National goalie Scott Rodgers, Quinzani looked liked Wes Welker trying to find space between Ray Lewis and Terrell Suggs as he battled in front of the net.

Parnelli got the better of Quinzani in the first quarter when he used his longer reach to knock Quinzani's stick out of his hands as they both went for a ground ball, and looked like he had Quinzani well shadowed until a quick shot in the second proved just how

dangerous the former Dragon star can be. With a little push and a quick cut he bought himself just enough space to grab, spin and fire a laser on net that had already pinged off the post before Parnelli finished his body check.

"God gave him that body and he has done nothing but go out there and get it done," Boston Cannons head coach Bill Daye said of his number one draft pick. "He's been doing it all his life. He's a tough kid."

Daye drafted Quinzani with the third overall pick to essentially be the Cannons' version of Wes Welker. In addition to being a sure-handed shot to complement Poskay and fellow rookie Steven Boyle on the attack, Quinzani's job is basically to use his speed and strength to be the coverage nightmare that forces defenses to break down and opens up holes for the big guns.

"We drafted him to be a great off ball complement to our great attack," Daye said. "Max has done exactly what we've asked of him. He finishes his shots, he gets open in space, and he works his butt off."

Quinzani is still out of the area for most of the week — he makes the commute up for games and practices from his home in New York — but he said being able to see his friends and family and play in front of them is a dream come true.

"Every weekend I'm up here," he said. "I'm getting to see my dad, my mom, my little brother and all my buddies. That has been very awesome. I

dreamed about this and I guess I believe in fate now."

Quinzani's local ties were another reason Daye was happy Quinzani was waiting for the Cannons at the third pick. Though he is currently the only Duxbury player on the active roster, the Cannons also picked up fellow Dragon alumni Chris Nixon and Kevin Gould in the draft, and Chris Ajemian is on the practice squad.

"Our goal is to get more local," Daye said. "You've got hometown heroes coming back and playing professional lacrosse. It's definitely going to help us put people in the seats and have crowds like we've had the first five games this season."

It is a strategy that seems to be working. The sea of children, easily the largest demographic in the stands Saturday night, gathering around Quinzani and Boyle, who hails from Derry, New Hampshire, looking for autographs after the game, were larger than any following except those waiting to get the John Hancock of the new Cannons all-time scoring leader, Matt Poskay. And for Quinzani, who said the biggest adjustment was getting to know his new teammates, having some fellow Dragons in the fold has been an added bonus.

"It's perfect," he said. "We commute together we practice together, and [with a nod to the line of kids waiting for his autograph] they seem to really like us."